

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 31st December 1881.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No.                      | Names of newspapers.             | Place of publication.    | Number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BENGALI.</b>          |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| <i>Monthly.</i>          |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 1                        | "Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..       | Calcutta                 | 2,100                  |                                                     |
| 2                        | "Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..    | Comercolly               | 175                    |                                                     |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 3                        | "Sansodhini" ... ..              | Chittagong               | 600                    |                                                     |
| 4                        | "Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..       | Ditto                    | .....                  |                                                     |
| <i>Weekly.</i>           |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 5                        | "Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..    | Calcutta                 | 700                    | 19th December 1881.                                 |
| 6                        | "Arya Darpan" ... ..             | Ditto                    | .....                  |                                                     |
| 7                        | "Bangabāsi" ... ..               | Ditto                    | .....                  | 24th ditto.                                         |
| 8                        | "Bhārat Bandhu" ... ..           | Ditto                    | .....                  | 27th ditto.                                         |
| 9                        | "Bhārat Mihir" ... ..            | Mymensing                | 671                    | 20th ditto.                                         |
| 10                       | "Bengal Advertiser" ... ..       | Calcutta                 | 2,000                  |                                                     |
| 11                       | "Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..       | Burdwan                  | 296                    | 20th ditto.                                         |
| 12                       | "Chāruvartā" ... ..              | Sherepore, Mymensing     | .....                  | 19th ditto.                                         |
| 13                       | "Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..           | Dacca                    | 350                    | 25th ditto.                                         |
| 14                       | "Dūt" ... ..                     | Calcutta                 | .....                  | 19th and 26th December 1881.                        |
| 15                       | "Education Gazette" ... ..       | Hooghly                  | 745                    |                                                     |
| 16                       | "Halisahar Prakāshikā" ... ..    | Calcutta                 | .....                  | 24th December 1881.                                 |
| 17                       | "Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..           | Beauleah, Rājshāhye...   | 200                    | 28th ditto.                                         |
| 18                       | "Medinī" ... ..                  | Midnapore                | .....                  | 24th ditto.                                         |
| 19                       | "Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..     | Berhampore               | 487                    | 23rd ditto.                                         |
| 20                       | "Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..  | Ditto                    | .....                  |                                                     |
| 21                       | "Navavibhākar" ... ..            | Calcutta                 | 850                    | 26th ditto.                                         |
| 22                       | "Paridarshak" ... ..             | Sylhet                   | .....                  | 18th ditto.                                         |
| 23                       | "Pratikār" ... ..                | Berhampore               | 275                    |                                                     |
| 24                       | "Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..        | Bauleah                  | .....                  |                                                     |
| 25                       | "Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..    | Kakiniā, Rungpore        | 250                    |                                                     |
| 26                       | "Sādhārani" ... ..               | Chinsurah                | 500                    | 25th ditto.                                         |
| 27                       | "Sahachar" ... ..                | Calcutta                 | 500                    | 21st ditto.                                         |
| 28                       | "Som Prakāsh" ... ..             | Changripottā, 24-Perghs. | .....                  | 26th ditto.                                         |
| 29                       | "Sudhākar" ... ..                | Mymensing                | .....                  |                                                     |
| 30                       | "Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..        | Calcutta                 | 4,000                  | 24th ditto.                                         |
| 31                       | "Srihatta Prakāsh" ... ..        | Sylhet                   | 440                    |                                                     |
| 32                       | "Tripurā Vartāvaha" ... ..       | Commillah                | .....                  | 17th ditto.                                         |
| <i>Daily.</i>            |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 33                       | "Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..        | Calcutta                 | 700                    | 21st to 29th December 1881.                         |
| 34                       | "Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... .. | Ditto                    | 300                    | 22nd to 26th ditto.                                 |
| 35                       | "Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..      | Ditto                    | 625                    | 23rd to 31st ditto.                                 |
| 36                       | "Banga Vidya Prakāshikā" ... ..  | Ditto                    | 500                    | 26th to 29th ditto.                                 |
| 37                       | "Prabhāti" ... ..                | Ditto                    | .....                  | 23rd to 30th ditto.                                 |
| 38                       | "Samāchār Sudāhbarsan" ... ..    | Ditto                    | .....                  |                                                     |
| <b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b> |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| <i>Weekly.</i>           |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 39                       | "Urdu Guide" ... ..              | Ditto                    | 365                    | 24th December 1881.                                 |
| <b>HINDI.</b>            |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| <i>Weekly.</i>           |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 40                       | "Behār Bandhu" ... ..            | Bankipore, Patna         | 500                    | 22nd ditto.                                         |
| 41                       | "Bhārat Mitra" ... ..            | Calcutta                 | 500                    | 22nd ditto.                                         |
| 42                       | "Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..          | Ditto                    | 200                    | 26th ditto.                                         |
| 43                       | "Uchit Baktā" ... ..             | Ditto                    | .....                  | 24th ditto.                                         |
| <b>PERSIAN.</b>          |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| <i>Weekly.</i>           |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 44                       | "Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..          | Ditto                    | 250                    | 23rd ditto.                                         |
| <b>URDU.</b>             |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| <i>Weekly.</i>           |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 45                       | "Akhbār-i-Darussaltanat" ... ..  | Ditto                    | .....                  |                                                     |
| <b>ASSAMESE.</b>         |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| <i>Monthly.</i>          |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 46                       | "Assam Vilāsinī" ... ..          | Sibsagar                 | .....                  |                                                     |
| <b>ORIYA.</b>            |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| <i>Weekly.</i>           |                                  |                          |                        |                                                     |
| 47                       | "Utkal Dīpikā" ... ..            | Cuttack                  | .....                  |                                                     |

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

TRIPURA VARTAVANA,  
December 17th, 1881.

THE *Tripurá Vártávaha*, of the 17th December, is exceedingly thankful to Lord Ripon for directing the introduction of a Bill into the Indian Legislative Council, with a view to repeal the obnoxious Vernacular Press Act. The Editor rejoices to find that the loyalty of native newspapers is at length vindicated by Government.

PARIDARSHAK,  
December 18th, 1881.

2. Referring to the recent memorial of the inhabitants of the Punjab to Lord Ripon, praying that the study of English should be made compulsory in the local university, the *Paridarshak*, of the 18th December, observes that this indeed is a good sign, and shows that the memorialists have at length been roused from their sleep, and realize the injurious consequences following from the establishment of a separate university. The memorial, however, is likely to cause some embarrassment to Lord Ripon. The idea of a separate university for the Punjab did not originate with him, though he has been persuaded to give his sanction to it. Any modification of the scheme at this stage might possibly bring about a rupture of good feelings between His Excellency and those narrow-minded officials who are primarily responsible for the measure, and might eventually lead him to resign office—a result which would be extremely deplorable. The people earnestly wish that Lord Ripon should continue to rule India for ever.

PARIDARSHAK.

Bill for the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

3. The same paper is thankful to the Viceroy for his deciding upon the repeal of

the Vernacular Press Act.

PARIDARSHAK.

4. We extract the following observations from an article in the same paper:—Would there be any room for dis-

The cotton duties.

trusting British politicians, if their professions corresponded with their practice? Both Conservatives and Liberals fear the powerful merchants of Manchester. The last body asked the late Ministry to repeal the cotton duties, and the Ministry accordingly was anxious to grant its prayer. The Liberals, however, were loud in their protests, and considered that the repeal of these duties at that time, when the state of the finances was far from satisfactory, would be very objectionable. The Liberals are now in power, and it is evident they have forgotten their former sayings. They are now themselves about to do away with these duties. The times are indeed perverse. Has there been really any improvement of the finances? Certainly not. The repeal of the cotton duties will mean the ruin of the Indian cloth-mills.

PARIDARSHAK.

5. The same paper beseeches Lord Ripon not to pass the Assam Emigration Bill hastily. It is an extremely one-

The Assam Emigration Bill.

sided measure framed for the benefit of the tea-planters by a commission of which it may be said that not one of the members has any feeling of sympathy for his fellowmen. The poor ignorant labourers will be simply ruined if this Bill becomes law.

CHARU VARTA,  
December 19th, 1881.

6. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 19th December, expresses its gratitude to Lord Ripon for deciding upon the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act—a measure for which there has never been the least justification.

Bill for the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

CHARU VARTA.

7. The same paper contains a long article in which the writer dwells upon the poverty of the people of this country. Under British rule signs of material

The poverty of India.

prosperity are indeed abundant; but the truth is the frequently recurring famines have left the people utterly destitute. The system of government is expensive, while taxation has reached its highest limit. The writer advocates a reduction of the army charges, and the substitution of a cheap native for the costly European agency in the public service of the country.

8. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 19th Decem-

Bill for the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

ber:—The repeal of the Vernacular Press Act will benefit not only native Editors but

ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
December 19th, 1881.

Government also, because the enactment of this law has proved a thousand times more injurious to the latter than the former. We cannot find expressions adequate to the feeling of gratitude we owe Lord Ripon for deciding upon the repeal of this measure. Those for whom it was intended are all innocent men, and they could safely continue to do their duty in spite of the Act. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká* was started just at the time when the Vernacular Press Act came into force. One of the chief aims which the conductors of the journal set before themselves in undertaking its publication was to show that independent journalism was perfectly possible in spite of the Press Act. Sir Ashley Eden was the author of this law. He showed something like an excess of zeal for its enforcement. All vernacular papers were required by him to furnish bail-bonds; a few were suppressed by him, while some others were made to give him "slavery bonds." What we therefore undertook to show was that it was possible and easy to write freely against his administration, while Government could not do anything to the writer. It will be thus seen that the Press Act was a reproach upon the Government only, and that the authorities could not obtain any aid from its provisions in punishing native Editors if only the latter did their work cautiously. The repeal of this law, therefore, though it may not benefit native papers so far as the independence of their writing is concerned, will serve the most useful purpose of restoring confidence in Government. During Lord Lytton's rule, in whatever direction the eyes of Government were turned, the people apprehended some danger. The repeal of the Press Act puts an end to this unsatisfactory state of things. Lord Ripon has done one great act; it now remains for him to do another. There will not spring up any good feelings between the rulers and the people of this country so long as the Arms Act remains in force. That the agitation against the Press Act has been more powerful than that against the Arms Act is due to the fact that native Editors were more directly affected by the former measure, and not because the Arms Act is a whit less injurious of the two. Government itself admits that, owing to the enforcement of the Arms Law, the ravages of wild beasts have increased, and that agricultural operations are being seriously impeded. Even this is nothing as compared with the pledge given by Her Majesty that all classes of her Indian subjects should receive an equal treatment from her Government. With what propriety therefore can Government now place arms in the hands of one class of its subjects while it deprives another of their means of defence against the attacks of wild beasts?

9. The following observations are extracted from another article in

The impartiality of British rule.

the same paper:—English newspapers wax wonderfully eloquent when expatiating upon

ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA.

the character of British rule as compared with that of Mahomedan domination in India. The justice and power of the British Government are proclaimed to the world on such occasions; and the writers notice with pride that the people of India attach more value to the bare word of an Englishman than to the bond of a native prince. Now, all this does not sound well at the present time. The impartiality of the British nation has become a fact of history—a thing of the past. Readers of newspapers are aware that European Judges in India have ceased to be so just and impartial as they were formerly, and that the practice of making an invidious distinction between white and black skins has become very prevalent. Whenever a European is brought up for trial on a grave charge, he is let off with

a light punishment. This, indeed, is a mystery. The vast discrepancy between the practice and professions of the British nation—a nation which in its desire to administer justice even punishes with death the young Hindu widow guilty of procuring an abortion, a nation which in its pious moods is ever appealing to Jesus Christ—does not deserve any other name. Now, it is the British nation which suffers the most from this cause. The firm confidence which the people hitherto reposed in Government is giving way as surely as a pillar of sand gives way before a violent storm. Does Government look upon this as a trifling loss? Compared with it the loss of the people is indeed slight. What one does not understand is the reason which leads Government to repeatedly trample justice under foot, merely to save a European soldier or sailor. The gain is but trivial compared with the loss sustained from a political point of view. The Editor concludes by beseeching Lord Ripon to do something towards checking the nominal sentences passed by the law courts upon Europeans charged with the murder of natives.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
December 19th, 1881.

10. The same paper thus accounts for the strength of the present agitation in England against the traffic carried on by Government in opium :—The professions of the English agitators notwithstanding, their true motive is to be found elsewhere. What they evidently desire is that the Government of India should give up the monopoly, thus making it possible for them to engage in this opium trade and reap the profits which now go to the Public Exchequer. In spite of their cloak of piety, the English merchants are gradually finding it difficult to escape detection. Englishmen are amassing fortunes by selling liquor to the people of India; they are therefore quite indifferent even if India is ruined by the use of spirituous liquor. The opium trade with China brings Government a revenue of eight to nine crores of rupees a year, not a pice of which finds its way into the pockets of the English merchants; hence so much agitation, outcry, and exposure.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
December 20th, 1881.

11. In the course of an article the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 20th December, makes the following observations :—Lord Ripon is the representative in India of the Liberal Party. To him is entrusted the task of fulfilling the pledges which were given to the people of India by Messrs. Gladstone, Fawcett, Bright and other Liberal leaders when they were in opposition. The rumour of an approaching income-tax is leading men to question the high moral character of the present administration. If the License-tax, the Arms Act, and other similar objectionable measures are not repealed—while, on the contrary, a repeal of the cotton duties is followed by the imposition of an income-tax—the remark that will unhesitatingly rise to the lips of the people is “with respect to India do not trust the British nation.”

What necessity is there of retaining the Arms Act? The people of India are and never will be disloyal to their rulers. The destruction of men and cattle and of crops caused by wild beasts at the present time is enormous. Again, what necessity is there of retaining the license-tax? Could not a famine fund be created with the savings that might reasonably be effected in the civil and military charges? The present Government appears to be quite indifferent to the subject of retrenchment.

BHARAT MIHIR.

12. The same paper, after referring to the multiplicity of laws which Mr. Whitley Stokes has framed for the people of this country—laws not passed to meet any requirements of those who are subject to their operation—dwells upon the extremely one-sided character of the Assam Emigration Bill, which is now

Over-legislation and the Assam  
Emigration Bill.

before the Indian Legislative Council. If this measure becomes law, the oppression of the labourers in the tea plantations, already fearful, will be simply aggravated.

13. The *Sahachar*, of the 21st December, points out the unwisdom of the course which is sometimes urged upon Government in reference to the armies of Native Princes. These armies should not, in the writer's opinion, be done away with; nay, they should rather be disciplined and placed on an efficient footing in order that the paramount power might, if necessity arose, utilize them against a foreign foe. There is no ground for questioning the loyalty of the Native Princes of India, and confidence on the part of the British Government will but intensify their loyalty.

SAHACHAR,  
December 21st, 1881.

14. If the Agricultural Department established by Lord Mayo, remarks the same paper, had answered the purpose for which it was created, the country would really have been a gainer by it. But beyond the entertainment of a few high-salaried European officers no good accrued from the measure. It was for this reason that the abolition of the Department was viewed with favour by the public. Its resuscitation by Lord Ripon, however, promises important results. India is mainly an agricultural country, and it is but proper that its agriculture should receive every encouragement. This is the more desirable as the development of the commerce and manufactures of India is greatly fettered by foreign competition.

SAHACHAR.

15. The same paper cordially approves of the sentiments of the memorial made to Government by the British Indian Association against the Assam Emigration Bill. The Editor points out that sections 12, 70, 71, 74, 128, 136, 148, 160, 169, 172-75, 179, and 193 are particularly open to objection.

SAHACHAR.

16. The same paper condemns the proposal to repeal the cotton duties, and in lieu thereof to impose an income-tax upon the people of this country. The writer dwells upon the selfishness of the demands made by the Lancashire merchants and the oppressive character of an income-tax.

SAHACHAR.

17. The *Murshidabad Patrikâ*, of the 23rd December, expresses his gratitude to Lord Ripon for deciding upon the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKÂ,  
December 23rd, 1881.

18. We give below a translation of an editorial paragraph in the same paper:—

Mr. Beames, Sub-divisional Officer of Lalbagh.

It is a common remark, and always made with regret, that Government does not now pay much, if any, attention to the grievances and the petitions of the people. As a matter of fact, instances of high-handedness on the part of European Civilians, and Uncovenanted Eurasian officers frequently come to the notice of the public; but does Government do anything to check the evil? On the contrary, if, in any instance, Government directs the transfer of an offending officer by way of punishment, it is always anxious to relax the severity of the order by simultaneously granting him promotion. Many facts have been published in this journal regarding the conduct of Mr. Beames, the Sub-divisional Officer of Lalbagh. It has become difficult for the inhabitants, rich and poor alike, living under his jurisdiction to remain uninsulted. His recent act of high-handedness, of which the son of Rai Dhunput Singh, Rai Bahadoor, was the victim, if expatiated upon, will only have the effect of giving publicity to an affair which cannot but be painful to the family; and we therefore refrain from making any lengthy comments. It behoves Government to protect the inhabitants of the Lalbagh sub-division from insult at the hands of Mr. Beames.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKÂ.

BANGABASI,  
December 24th, 1881.

19. We have this week received a new weekly paper in Bengali. The contents. The *Bangabási*—for this is the name of the new journal—is published at Calcutta and is

well got up. The number under notice contains, besides items of news and short editorial paragraphs, articles headed "Natives visiting England," "History of newspapers," "Female education," "The plough," and the "Shrine of Kanarak" in Orissa. In the first article the England-going native is exhorted not to forget his own country when he returns from his visit; and in the article on female education the native public are asked to put off the marriage of their daughters until the latter attain at least the age of 16 years. In the meantime they should receive a practical and moral education.

HALISAHAR  
PRAKASHIKA,  
December 24th, 1881.

20. On the subject of the Assam Emigration Bill, the *Hálishahar Prakáshiká*, of the 24th December, makes observations similar to those noticed before.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
December 24th, 1881.

21. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 24th December, notices with dis-  
The cotton duties and an income-  
tax. appointment that the Liberal Government is said to be contemplating the repeal of the cotton duties, and in its stead the imposition of an income-tax. If this should prove true, a great deal of hardship would be caused to the people who have become so impoverished that they cannot bear further taxation. Besides, a repeal of the cotton duties to humour the Lancashire merchants, followed by the introduction of an income-tax, would be acts of very questionable morality. The writer appeals to Lord Ripon's sense of justice for an impartial decision in the present case.

MEDINI,  
December 24th, 1881.

22. The *Medini*, of the 24th December, publishes the details of two cases, in which the servants of Messrs. Watson & Co., indigo-planters of Bagri, in the Midnapore district, are described as having harassed poor ryots by instituting false cases against them. The Editor pronounces the Commissioner Mr. Beames' recent settlement of the indigo difficulty in Midnapore as a failure, and asks Sir Ashley Eden to attend to the subject.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
December 25th, 1881.

23. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 25th December, thanks Sir Ashley Eden for (1) the great interest His Honor takes in the subject of education. He is not opposed to the spread of high education; while primary instruction has made great advance in Bengal during his administration. He has increased the grant for primary education. (2) Sir Ashley deserves the gratitude of the people of Bengal for his noble desire to confer upon them the benefit of railway communication. If he were but allowed to remain for some years more in this country, the whole of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa would soon be covered with a network of railways. His Honor is the first Governor that has attended to the wants of Eastern Bengal in this connection.

DACCA PRAKASH.

24. In reference to the proposal to repeal the cotton duties and to impose an income-tax, the same paper makes observations similar to those noticed before.

DACCA PRAKASH.

25. The same paper contains a highly eulogistic article on Baboo Gangacharan Sarkar, the Subordinate Judge of Dacca, who is about to retire from the service on pension. As an able, experienced, and conscientious Judge, he has been always held in the highest esteem by the people of East Bengal; while his literary attainments and social qualities have endeared him to them. He will be greatly missed in Dacca.

SADHARANI,  
December 25th, 1881.

26. The *Sádháraní*, of the 25th December, remarks that justice requires that native Editors should each be supplied with a copy of the Weekly Report

Reports on Native Papers.

on Vernacular Newspapers, which is drawn up for the information of Government. Until this is done, the writings of native Editors will not be free from the risk of misconstruction. The repeal of the Vernacular Press Act therefore, if not accompanied by this concession, will not completely remove their fears. The Editor asks his contemporaries of the native press to agitate the matter.

27. The *Som Prakash*, of the 26th December, points out that in the

SOM PRAKASH,  
December 26th, 1881.

Money-orders.

case of money-orders considerable inconvenience results from the practice of the Postal Department of delivering the order only into the hands of the person in whose favour it may have been made, and not into the hands of even his most intimate and trusted acquaintance. This excessive caution is not necessary. It might often happen that the payee was away from home, and would not return for some days, or was a female not able to sign her name. It is easy to imagine the inconvenience that would be caused in such cases. In this matter the practice that obtains in regard to the delivery of registered letters should be followed by the Postal Department.

28. Referring to the case brought against Gungaram and Fanthome

SOM PRAKASH.

Mr. Fisher, Magistrate of Meerut.

by Mr. Fisher in the Allahabad High Court, the same paper remarks that Mr. Fisher cannot be congratulated upon the result of the trial. The fact is the moral character of public officers should be above suspicion. However innocent Mr. Fisher may have been of the charges brought against him, the libel case, it must be confessed, has, to some extent, injured his reputation. The Editor concludes the article by asking Government to require public officers to furnish proofs of moral character similar to those furnished by them of competency in other matters.

Dr. Hunter's Gazetteer of India.

29. The same paper contains an appreciative notice of Dr. Hunter's Imperial Gazetteer of India.

SOM PRAKASH.

30. The same paper approves of the sentiments of the memorial

The Assam Emigration Bill.

made by the British Indian Association to Government against the Assam Emigration Bill.

SOM PRAKASH.

31. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 26th December, in an article on the

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
December 26th, 1881.

Proposed district boards.

best way to constitute efficient district boards in connection with Lord Ripon's scheme of local self-government, remarks that the first step necessary is to reform the composition of the village punchayets. These bodies should then be empowered to elect members for the sub-divisional boards, and the members of the latter to send representatives to the district boards. This scheme of gradual representation, if adopted, will reach even the inhabitants of the most backward villages, and teach real self-government to the people. The principle of election should prevail everywhere, and the official element in these representative bodies should be as small as possible.

32. The same paper is glad to notice that the Supreme Government

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

The legal provision for the imprisonment of debtors.

has invited an expression of opinion from the local authorities on the subject of the imprisonment of debtors. The Editor advocates the exemption of the females, and, as regards the males, only in such cases in which the decree-holder fails to satisfy the court as to the existence of dishonesty on the part of the debtor.

33. The *Samvad Prabhakar*, of the 22nd December, is not satisfied

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
December 22nd, 1881.

Report on Native Papers.

with the present system of reporting on native newspapers. The Editor would wish to point out that the translated extracts should be larger and more numerous than at present; that extracts should be made from all the papers received by

the Reporter ; and that lastly to furnish native Editors with an opportunity of correcting any possible mistranslation on the part of the Reporter, each of them should be supplied with a copy of the weekly report. Towards the conclusion of the article the attention of Government and of the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway is directed to the inconvenience caused to pedestrians and others by the closing almost every hour of the level crossing gate on the railway line at Tallah in the suburbs of Calcutta.

PRABHATI,  
December 23rd, 1881.

34. The *Prabháti*, of the 23rd December, remarks that the decision which Government is said to have arrived at in regard to the imposition of an income-tax is the outcome of its desire to conciliate Manchester by repealing the cotton duties. As the gratification of this desire must involve a loss of revenue, additional taxation would be rendered necessary. Government, however, could do a piece of service to Manchester without saddling India with additional taxation, if it could only make up its mind to effect a reduction of public expenditure. The last-mentioned matter does not perhaps receive adequate consideration by reason of the injury it may cause to the interests of Europeans. There is ample room for retrenchment in different directions. The Editor here asks what has become of the recommendations of the costly Army Commission, and dwells upon the inutility of continuing the highly paid office of Governor for each of the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, inasmuch as the work can be satisfactorily performed by Lieutenant-Governors. A substitution of native for European agency in the public service is then referred to as a means which, if it was adopted, would greatly mitigate the pressure upon the finances. In the course of the article certain observations are made regarding the unsuitability of direct taxation in this country.

PRABHATI,  
December 27th, 1881.

35. The same paper beseeches Lord Ripon to withhold his assent from the Assam Emigration Bill. The measure has been framed solely for the benefit of the tea-planters. The stringent character of the existing Emigration Act notwithstanding, the emigrants are subjected to a cruel treatment at the hands of the recruiters and planters. A relaxation of the existing safeguards will doubtless aggravate the wrongs inflicted upon them. The labourers are frequently imposed upon by the recruiters. The Editor asks Government to institute secret enquiries as to the treatment which it is said is being extended to the labourers at a certain depôt at Calcutta. [The subject is continued in the *Prabháti*, of the 29th December].

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 31st December 1881.*



